

I conclude, Mr Speaker, with a quotation from none other than the present Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, who was reported in the *Age* on 13 March 1979 as saying:

I do not think the taxpayers should be asked to pay for the activities of political parties.

Mr McCANCE (Bennettswood)—At the start of my speech I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on the office you have assumed. It must have been pleasing to you to realize that the choice was unanimous and I know you will receive the support of all honorable members.

I express my loyalty to Her Majesty, the Queen, through His Excellency, the Governor, and Lady Winneke, and I convey those sentiments on behalf of the electors of Bennettswood. I also congratulate the other new members of Parliament who sit in this place for the first time, particularly those fortunate enough to have already made their maiden speeches. They all have my best wishes and I know they will be working hard in the interests of those whom they represent. My thanks go to the older members of this Parliament—I do not mean that they are older in years, but older in Parliamentary experience—who have already assisted me in many ways. The Leaders of both the Opposition and the National Party, as well as other honorable members, have been very kind in welcoming me to this place. I very much appreciate their good wishes, although I understand that I cannot expect them always to be so gracious.

I pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr Ian McLaren, who first entered the Victorian Parliament 34 years ago. In fact, Mr McLaren was a member of this Parliament before any present member of either House. He first entered Parliament in 1945 as the independent member for Glen Iris. In 1965 he was re-elected to the Parliament to represent the electorate of Caulfield. Mr McLaren held that seat until 1967 when, after the creation of the seat of Bennettswood, he was elected to represent that electorate.

In wandering around the various corridors of Parliament House, where I am still getting lost, I have found that all honorable members from all parties appreciate the great and fair work that Mr McLaren carried out while he was in this place. He was appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees in 1973 and was a member of the Privileges Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, and, not inappropriately, the Library Committee. Most honorable members will be aware that not long ago Mr McLaren donated most of his personal library, which had been collected since the war, to the people of Victoria. That collection is now housed in the Baillieu Library for the benefit of the people.

It is an honour to represent the electorate that was so ably represented by Ian McLaren for twelve years. All honorable members are aware of his great knowledge of Parliament and his respect for its traditions. It is good for new members to consider the forms and procedures of Parliament because people are concerned—and I have found this to be so as I move around the electorate that I represent—that Parliament should be the body that governs the State, not organizations outside Parliament. As members, we should pay respect to the forms and traditions of Parliament and ensure that we do not derogate from its performance in the years that lie ahead.

Following in the steps of Ian McLaren I feel a little like Andrew Johnson, who became the President of the United States of America after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. President Johnson said:

I only succeed him—no one can replace him. Although I feel that way in following Ian McLaren as the honorable member for Bennettswood, I should like to thank the electors for the confidence they have shown in me. I make the point clearly—and I have already done so through the local press—that I represent all the people in the area, not just the majority of voters. I shall be opening an office in the electorate very shortly and will be serving the electors full-time.

For the benefit of honorable members who do not know the electorate of Bennettswood, I point out that it contains an interesting cross section of the community. There are a number of Housing Commission homeowners and tenants in the area, some of whom have varying problems which they have brought to me and in which I am trying to be of assistance. Like many of the older electorates, Bennettswood also contains an increasing number of elderly citizens. It is important that, as far as possible, we, as members of Parliament, look after their needs. This section of the community is growing because people are living longer and Governments and all political parties will have to give more consideration to them and ensure that they are being properly looked after.

The electorate also contains a number of institutions, and I refer particularly to those which care for children. I have already visited the Allambie Reception Centre, which is run by the Government and which has come under criticism. I pay tribute to the staff of that institution. Organizations such as Allambie face particular problems because their populations are constantly shifting. As all honorable members are aware such places receive phone calls in the middle of the night concerning children who have been knocked about by drunken fathers or hurt in some family conflict. Such situations must concern us all. Within the limits of their resources, Allambie and the organizations like it do a magnificent job. They will, of course, have my support and I know they have the support of other honorable members.

There are also a number of privately run children's homes in the electorate and these are also receiving my attention. I have already visited most of them and I shall take an interest in their needs in the time that lies ahead.

Bennettswood is well served with educational bodies, which include the State College of Victoria at Burwood and a number of high schools, technical schools, primary schools and private schools. They number 31 in all.

Mr McCance

I conclude by mentioning several matters of concern. It has become increasingly obvious to me that the individual in society has great difficulty in penetrating what we call the bureaucracy. Surely one of the important jobs that members of Parliament must undertake is the making of representations on behalf of individuals who are having difficulties with Government departments and red tape. I was not very aware of this problem twelve months ago, but I have become more and more conscious of the difficulties being faced by the private citizen when he has problems of this nature. It is up to all honorable members to assist these people in every way possible. I am certainly undertaking this task, as a number of Ministers would be able to verify, if the fact needs verification. I am extremely concerned about the rights of the individual when he or she deals with Government departments and authorities.

His Excellency mentioned the upgrading of public transport. This is a matter which is dear to the hearts of the people of Bennettswood. We have had public meetings and I have promised to do my part to ensure that proper allocations of funds are made for the upgrading of the public transport system. People will need public transport in the years to come because of the reduction in the availability of normal fuels. It is important that the public transport system be upgraded to encourage people to use trains and trams more.

Finally, I wish to touch on the question of sheltered workshops. There is a growing need for an increase in the number of sheltered workshops. This is a State and Federal matter, but I am concerned that children are having great difficulty in finding accommodation in sheltered workshops at the end of their training in our special education system. Honorable members should be alerted to this problem. We must be prepared to help these young adults who have passed through the special education system, and who at the age of 20-21 years, cannot find employment in sheltered workshops. I am already directing my attention to this matter,

and I am sure every honorable member will support me. I thank you for your indulgence, Sir, and I thank honorable members.

Mr SIMMONDS (Reservoir)—On behalf of my colleagues on this side of the Chamber, I should like to mention the reference made in the Governor's Speech to a colleague of ours who was a member of this House when I first entered the Legislative Assembly. I refer to Dinny Lovegrove who became quite a legend in the Labor movement because of his service both in the trade union movement and in this Parliament.

In addressing myself to the Speech delivered on behalf of the Government by the Governor, I turn to the issues which I regard as essential to the good Government of Victoria. His Excellency stated that \$3000 million will be spent on the development of industries in Victoria. Of course, those industries are being developed not through the policies of this Government, and not for the benefit of the people who live in Victoria, but rather on the basis of expected return from the capital investments that will be made in petro-chemical plants, car manufacturing plants, and installations which will consume an enormous amount of energy, in the form of aluminium plants. I direct the attention of the House to the failure of the Government to make any comprehensive appraisal of the employment prospects in Victoria, how this investment may affect them and how the Government's policies are failing to deal with the situation.

The background information in respect to jobs in Victoria is largely as the result of the decline in the manufacturing industry in Victoria. The Premier himself received the report, which he suppressed prior to the State election. It showed that there was a disproportionate concentration of manufacturing industries in Victoria; 56 per cent of those employed in the clothing and footwear industries are in Victoria. Together with textile industries, these industries have suffered more than any other manufacturing industries. In the year to September 1978, 1000 jobs were lost in the textile industry, and 100 in

the footwear and clothing industries. The prospects for the next decade are even worse. The paper presented to the Premier predicted a growth rate for the decade of 1.2 per cent per annum.

Of course these are not the only problem industries in Victoria. The vehicle industry which has attracted the interest of General Motors-Holden's Ltd., is an area of concern to any Government in Victoria. It is probably the most important single employing industry in Victoria. The Government needs to act quickly and decisively in the interests of Victorians to ensure that the benefits of Government action by investment are bestowed on the people of Victoria.

I direct attention to what will take place. The Premier claimed that the new General Motors-Holden's Ltd. plant was to be a victory for his policies. The reality is that when the plant is fully operational, it will employ a little more than 1000 men, and perhaps a few women, but it will cost tens of thousands of existing jobs in component industries in Victoria.

I will explain the concept of the manufacturing of a 4-cylinder engine in the plant proposed by General Motors-Holden's Ltd. It will be integrated into its world operations and it will deprive tens of thousands of Victorians currently employed in the vehicle building industry of the jobs they hold at the moment. We are told that this massive investment will be of benefit. The reality is that the total investments announced by the Premier will be something of the order of \$500 million in respect of the Imperial Chemical Industries plant at Point Wilson, which will employ some 700 people. The plant at General Motors-Holden's Ltd., will employ 1400 people, 800 of whom will be skilled tradesmen. Given that the major area of unemployment in Victoria in the manufacturing sector is in the unskilled and semi-skilled area, 800 tradesmen out of 1400 workers in the General Motors-Holden's Ltd. plant will mean that there will be no significant contribution towards employment, rather